

A

REVIEWV

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, June 1. 1706.

IN my Enquiries and Suggestion, of what may or may not be the Consequences of the great and glorious Successes of the Confederate Forces against the *French*; one Word, like an Echo, haunts me every Step I take, viz. WHAT'S NEXT? Thus when *Antwerp*, *Ghent* and *Bruges*, &c. any thing else, our Imagination makes reasonable, shall fall, *What's next*, or *what then*? why then march into *Ficardy*, says the last Paper but one, and still *what then* follows the Prescription, the inquisitive Nature of Man leading him upon repeated Enquiries in every thing.

Like it self is a Progression of Inquiry, a continued Search after something new, something more; and, WHAT'S NEXT, runs thro' all the Actions of Men, till they come to a full Stop at the Grave; and then the grand *Eclaircissement*, or the full Discovery of all that's subsequent, is made at once, and the Enquiry ceases.

Now, that if possible, I may bring this progressive Motion, or Line of Question to a full Stop, to a Period, and set a bound at least to what we ought to enquire, if not, to what we will enquire; I shall suggest now more Questions, and more than any wise Man will think tolerable, much less probable, and yet amongst the greatest Crowd of our Wishes bring all to a full Stop.

I brought the *English* Army in our last Enquiry, where I heartily wish I could see them, viz. in the very Bowels of *France*, carving out large Conquests there, and no Enemy to oppose them; the *Dutch* Army left behind, keeping the *French* Troops that are remaining, at a constant Bay unable to help themselves.

Well, Gentlemen, and WHAT NEXT? Why then the Duke may traverse *Picardy*, ravage the Country, raise Contributions, take all their Sea Coast, and march up to the

the Gates of *Rome*, ay, and *Paris* too, say some; tho' perhaps they don't so well know what they talk of, as they think they do; but suppose for once, they had *Dunkirk*, *Calais*, *Bulogne*, and all the Sea Towns, and what next? Why, then suppose *France* harra's'd, invaded in several Places from *Languedock*, from *Spain*, from the Sea, or where you will, in as many places as you can, and what next? Suppose, the *French* King under the worst and most desperate Circumstances any body can make rational, what's next? And here I shall differ from you all Gentlemen, and I cannot help it, my next, and your next will differ.

When all these things are brought to pass, ay, or half of them; of which I should be very glad,—and if any Man ask me then what's next, my Answer would be PEACE; and because I am even more than any body oblig'd to explain my self in everything; I say, I desire to enter a little into the Meaning of what I say, and the Reasons of it; and when I have done that, you are wellcome to pass your Censures.

I make no doubt, that this is a most just War begun upon the best Foundations; and perhaps the only just Foundations of a War, viz. Peace; 'tis a War for Peace and Liberty; all the pretensions Declarations and Claims of the Confederacy are to reduce not *France*, but the exorbitant Power of *France*, all the protest Intentions of the Nation in this War, is to restore a lasting Peace to *Europe*, and bring *France* to Reason: Nor indeed, can any thing else be a due Foundation of War, the Blood of the many thousands of People, that fall in the publick Quarrels of Princes, can no other way be accounted for but Defence of native and just Right, and preserving the publick Peace and Good of the Country.

*War dyes of Course, when e're Oppressions
cease;*

They only justly fight, that fight for Peace.

Nor am I without a Voucher for my Opinion, and that from no less an Authority than him, who is the likeliest Man in the

World to bring it to pass; I mean his Grace the Duke of Marlborough. If we look into the Dukes Letter from Flanders to Mr. Secretary Harley, we shall there find, the utmost Designs of that Glorious Prince are bounded by this very thing, as the highest Advantage which can be obtain'd for this Nation.—I pray God continue the Success of her Majesties Arms, says the Duke, till the Enemy may be brought to the Necessity of accepting a firm and SOLID PEACE.

'Tis evident, this is her Majesties Design; 'tis evident, 'tis the Duke of Marlborough's Aim; 'tis evident, 'tis the General Interest, and any thing beyond it would be the Ruin and Destruction both of us and the whole Confederacy, by breaking one way or other the Ballance, which to obtain, is the End and real Life of the present Conjunction of Powers in *Europe*.

Whoever they are that wish this War to end in any thing but a firm and solid peace, have either little to lose, get Money by, or depend upon the War, or do not understand the Interest and true Benefit of their native Country.

We do not fight for Conquest, but for Peace; 'tis Peace only can restore the Breaches War has made upon our Commerce; Peace only can make our Wealth flow like a high Spring Tyde. Indeed there are Circumstances by which we must say, we shall thrive with the War, and of which I shall speak by its self; but 'tis a Sort of thriving we ought not to court, in Competition with a settled Conclusion of the War; nor can it be compar'd to the Prosperity and Encrease, which the Advantages of Trade, open'd and settled by Peace, must bring to such a Trading Nation as this.

The End of this War is to reduce exorbitant Power to a due Pitch, to run it quite down, would be to erect some other Exorbitant in its Room; and so set up our selves as publick Enemies to *Europe*, in the room of that publick Enemy we pull down.

Every Power, which over ballances the rest, makes its self a Nuisance to its Neighbours. *Europe* being divided into a great Variety of separate Governments and Constitutions:

stitutions ; the Safety of the whole consists in a due Distribution of Power, so shar'd to every Part or Branch of Government, that no one may be able to oppress and destroy the rest.

And 'tis evident from Experience, that whenever it has been otherwise, the Consequence has been, potent Confederacies among the weaker Powers by Joint Assistance to reduce the encroaching growing Part to such Terms of Reason, and preserve and secure the Tranquility of the rest.

When that Power is reluc'd, it ceases to be any more the Object either of Jealousie or Resentment of the rest ; but if any of the united Powers erect themselves upon the Ruin of that ; or by any other method set themselves up too high ; the Nuisance is transpos'd to that Power, which before it was thought convenient to assist, and it becomes as necessary to the rest to reduce that Power or Prince, as it was before to reduce the other.

Thus the *Spanish* Power in *Queen Elizabeth's* Time grew formidable to *Europe*, and all the *Pri ces*, who took Umbrage at their Greatness, confederated with *France* and *England* to reduce it.

The *Austrian* Power in the Emperor *Ferdinand II.* became formidable to *Europe* ; whereupon all the Protestant Princes agreed to call in, and assist the King of *Sweden*, in bringing the *Germans* to due Bounds, and to hearken to Reason, and *England*, *France*, and *Holland* joyntly concurr'd.

France from these Fractions and Quarrels among the Protestants, establish'd its Greatness, and raised her self on the Ruin of its so potent Neighbours, till the most exquisite Conduct of the present King has brought that Greatness to a too formidable Height ; and thereby plac'd her in the envied Seat of Power, which standing without the Circle of Mediocrity makes her uneasie to all the rest.

Should any of the Branches of the present Confederacy push at a Conquest, and by the Advantage of the falling Greatness of the *French* power, engross to themselves a Dominion too large, or any Superiority of

Power above his proper Sphere, that very Power or Prince would in his Degree become equally obnoxious to the rest, and the Ballance of Power being thereby broken, would be as much the publick Enemy as the *French* are now.

General Safety consists in *Peace* ; *Peace* is the Bond of Property, the Root of Commerce, the Fountain of Wealth, the Blessing of Mankind, the Emblem of Heaven, and the Joy of the World.

PEACE is the only End of just War, the only justifiable Article of the present Undertakings ; *If* this were not the ultimate Extent of the Wish or Desire of *England* in this War, the Prosecution of it would make us a Den of Thieves, a meer Nest of Algerines, Rovers and Robbers of other Men's Right, Murtherers of Nations, Pursuers of the Innocent, and Bloodhounds bent for Destruction, and born to disturb the World.

The Parliament would be a meer Senate of *Rome*, who establish'd their own Freedom upon the Slavery and Bondage of free-born Kingdoms ; and who first seizing by Violence the lawful Possessions of others, turn'd their Violences into Laws, and call'd the Freedom of their Invasions, Liberty ; their ravish'd Possessions, Property, and the Securities of their thieving, a regular Constitution.

The QUEEN would be a meer Tyrant and Invader, who commanding infinite People, rob'd and invaded others, only because she could do it.

The Duke of *Marlborough*, a second *Ottoman*, who founded the *Turkish* Empire in Blood ; a meer Soldier, whose Sword was his Inheritance ; and what ever he could seize from another, concluded for his own.

In short, this War would be another *Goth* and *Vandal* Eruption, and the Conquests made by it, all Devastation and Plunder ; every Battle would be a vast Massacre, and a complicated civil Murther ; every Town taken, a general Burglary, and breaking open other Peoples Houses.

Peace only alters the Property of these things, *Peace* makes War just, and killing Peo-